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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 21 | Humidity 83% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 82,497 | Nifty 25,250 | Gold 77,560 | Silver 90,000 | Dollar 83.97 | Euro 92.27 | GBP 110.59

CITY PAGE 3

Vagaries of weather

City records one of the highest temperatures for October on Wednesday, but by evening heavy rain had flooded low-lying areas

Air and there

As 11 air quality monitoring stations in city boast of exemplary air quality index month after month, experts call for closer look

CITY PAGE 5

Namma 112 helpline sees surge in number of blank calls, but team makes sure each such call is monitored for tech or other difficulties. No number is blocked, no call ignored

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Of every 10 calls made to helpline, nearly 6 end up in silence

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The Namma 112 emergency helpline has seen a significant rise in blank calls. In September alone, an alarming 58.93% of the 2,24,593 calls received were blank. On a daily average, the helpline handles about 7,486 calls, with approximately 4,411 of them being blank, while only 3,075 turn out to be genuine. In other words, out of every 10 calls made to the emergency helpline, nearly six calls end in silence.

According to the staff at Namma 112, the protocol is to wait for 10 to 15 seconds after a call connects, giving the caller time to respond. If no one speaks, the call is terminated. Following this, the feedback and technical teams step in to assess the situation. The technical team checks for any connection issues that might have prevented the caller from speaking, while the feedback team ensures that the call was not made in a state of distress, where the caller might have been unable to talk.

According to the staff, blank calls have surged, while crank calls have declined significantly. There are times when often people call but remain silent, and staff wait for them to speak. "We wait for 10 to 15 seconds for the caller to speak, but if we wait too long, the line may appear busy for others, potentially blocking genuine callers trying to reach us," said a staff member.

If somebody tries to speak on the other end, the staff follows up. "In some cases, if callers attempt to talk but the call is cut, our feedback team ensures that we follow up with them," explained another staff member. "We ensure to call them back and confirm if the call was for a genuine reason. Meanwhile, the technical team investigates whether the caller was unable to speak due to network issues or a technical glitch," adding that no numbers can be blocked, as the same caller could face an emergency another day.

When these silent calls come in, the staff cannot ignore them, but also cannot wait too long, as it impacts response times for emergencies.

> **"If any crank or blank calls are received, our team responds courteously. While blank calls have surged, we've observed a decline in crank calls compared to the beginning of the year**
>
> — Kshama Mishra, DCP Command Centre

DCP Command Centre Kshama Mishra told BM, "We have trained our staff at Namma 112 to manage such calls with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

CROOKED LAY OF THE LAND

3,000 illegal layouts in and around Bengaluru

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Before buying property in the city, we advise thorough due diligence as the stats suggest there are a whopping 3,000 unauthorised layouts. Unregulated construction of settlements in the areas surrounding Bengaluru has been rampant, with little to no control, allegedly due to political influence and bribery.

The 3,000 unauthorised layouts have sprung up in the city limits, with thousands of acres developed into residential units and plots, resulting in a loss of hundreds of crores of rupees in revenue for the government. And what is more, people dreaming of owning homes end up buying into these unauthorised schemes.

Sources said that sub-registrar officials have been ordered not to register plots in these unauthorised areas, but this directive remains on paper and has not been implemented. As a result, residential areas are being illegally developed on agricultural land without land conversion and map approvals. Despite assurances from Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in the legislative assembly on February 3 to halt construction under the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Wall painting

Join in for an exciting and inclusive event titled "Paint the Bengaluru: Laughing, Smiling, and Beautiful Talking Walls." This open-to-all event invites artists, students, and community members to come together and bring the walls of Bengaluru to life with traditional art. The walls of Sugatta and Hunasamaranahalli will be transformed into canvases of expression, sharing stories of joy, heritage, and beauty. All necessary materials will be provided. **Where: Shantamani Kala Kendra, JAIN Sugatta/Hunasamaranahalli premises**
When: October 4, 10:30 am onwards

02 Blend of soul, R&B, & jazz

Prepare to be swept away by a night of deep grooves, smooth rhythms, and the mesmerising voice of NNAVY, the Swiss singer-songwriter making waves across the globe with her soulful voice and captivating performances. Known for her seamless fusion of R&B, soul, and jazz, she is hailed for her rich, emotive voice and has quickly risen to prominence within the international music scene.
Where: Windmills, Whitefield
When: October 4 & 5, 9:30 pm onwards

03 Learn about Gandhi

The National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) cordially invites you to the Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations. This special gathering will feature insightful talks from distinguished professors on Gandhi's life, his philosophies, and his enduring impact on contemporary society.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: October 4, 5 pm onwards

Celebrating 5th anniversary

CURA Hospitals marked its 5th anniversary today. Established in 2019 with a 50-bed facility at Konanakunte Cross, it has since expanded to Kamanahalli with a 200-bed hospital, launched CURA Ayurveda, and opened a nursing college. The hospital has received awards including the Times Business Award (2022), Worldwide Award (2023), and Bangalore Mirror Award (2024). CURA Hospital provides ICUs and operation theatres with advanced equipment. Future plans at the institute include adding Cath labs at both branches for cardiac emergency care.

Changes in II PU practical exam centres spark debate

While parents insist assigning random centres ensures fairness, staff say solution doesn't address root cause, feels like a temporary fix

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In an effort to curb malpractice during practical exams, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has announced that students appearing for the II PUC practical exams in 2025 will be randomly assigned to different centres. This decision, which mandates that students cannot take their practical exams in their own college, has sparked a huge debate.

Why this move?

Previously, allegations surfaced that some colleges were awarding marks without actually conducting practical exams, particularly in the science stream. Concerns were also raised regarding the lack of proper laboratory facilities in certain colleges. To address this, KSEAB is taking strict measures to ensure that practical exams are conducted fairly and transparently across all institutions. KSEAB Chairperson Manjushree commented, "We have issued instructions to PUC college principals to ensure that students are properly guided by lecturers and are well-prepared for their practical exams. All necessary experiments should be conducted as part of the syllabus." The change, however, poses logistical challenges, especially for private colleges where student numbers are higher. The board had already implemented changes in government PUC colleges by altering 50 exam centres across 150 science colleges. This new directive is now aiming to extend the same rigour to all institutions. Despite the challenges, KSEAB remains firm on its decision, believing that it will enhance the integrity of the practical exams.

'Students appearing for the II PUC practical exams in 2025 will be randomly assigned to different centres'

Mixed reactions

Reacting to this, Manish K said that as a parent, he fully supports KSEAB's decision to randomise the exam centres for the II PUC practicals. "...For too long, students have been receiving marks without undergoing proper assessments, especially in colleges lacking laboratory infrastructure. This move ensures fairness and puts every student on an equal footing, regardless of the college they attend. It's a step in the right direction to promote academic integrity and eliminate any chance of bias or favouritism in grading. If students are truly prepared, the location of the exam shouldn't matter, and it will push institutions to maintain higher standards of education."

However, a college principal stated that while the intent behind KSEAB's decision is understandable, the practical implementation raises serious concerns. "Changing the exam centres introduces logistical challenges for students, particularly those in rural areas or those attending colleges that are already struggling with resources. Travelling to unfamiliar locations can add unnecessary stress during exams, which could affect performance. Moreover, instead of addressing the root cause of the problem—lack of infrastructure in certain colleges—this solution feels like a temporary fix. The focus should be on improving facilities and monitoring practices within the colleges themselves, rather than making students bear the burden of such changes," the principal said.

Is there a need for uniform Dasara holidays?

While the state government has declared Dasara holidays from October 2 to 20, many schools have already set their academic calendars, noted D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary of the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools. Some schools have reduced Dasara holidays in favour of Christmas breaks, while others have shortened them to accommodate extra classes. Kumar argued that it is unreasonable for the education department to impose uniform holiday schedules, as schools need flexibility to meet their academic obligations. He explained that schools are required to complete 240 to 244 academic days and plan their schedules accordingly. Adjustments to Dasara holidays are part of this planning.

Students honour Gandhi through his philosophies

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Students and faculty members of a Bengaluru-based college, in collaboration with Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), celebrated the philosophy of Khadi and the importance of such a handmade, self-resilient textile system at the Cubbon Park Metro Station on Wednesday.

One of the key highlights of the event was the "Mend and Make" workshop, which focused on breaking the idea that clothes must always look perfect. "By repairing pieces that have stains, tears, or faded colours, we not only give them a fresh, unique appearance but also extend their life," said one of the facilitators, emphasising the importance of reducing waste and promoting reuse.

This apart, a community weaving workshop was carried out to celebrate the essence of Bhavani Jamakkalam, a traditional woven carpet from Erode, Tamil Nadu, known for bringing people together. Moreover, the city's rich plant life was also explored through eco-printing, showcasing the trees, flowers, and plants of Cubbon Park. The event also raised awareness about the declining Deccani sheep, whose wool culture is in danger, urging people to support the revival of this traditional wool culture. Swati Maskeri, Head of Studies, Industrial Arts & Design Practices, Srishti Manipal Institute, said, "The metro station, bustling with commuters, became a space for active participation. Passersby engaged in discussions, learning about the urgent need to rethink our modes of production, consumption, repair, and reuse. The creative approach by students made complex sustainability issues accessible and sparked meaningful exchanges."

Successful Swachhata Abhiyan in Fort High School

Under the initiative of the Swachhata Abhiyan campaign, top officials and staff of the State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Bengaluru, organised a clean-up drive at Fort High School, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru, on Wednesday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The drive underscored the importance of cleanliness and sanitation. Joohi Smita Sinha, Chief General Manager, SBI Bengaluru Circle, VN Sarma, General Manager-NW 2, Prafulla Kumar Jena, General Manager-NW3, Sushil Kumar Singh, General Manager-NW1, along with a significant number of SBI staff, participated in the drive, showcasing their commitment to community service. Together, they engaged in various activities aimed at cleaning and beautifying the school premises.

Moody skies: Too much rain & too much shine

At 32.8°C, Bengaluru records its all-time high October temperature on Wednesday, since 2002

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Bengaluru's weather continues to be unpredictable. On Wednesday, the city recorded one of the highest temperatures for October, only for the temperature to drop sharply by evening as heavy rains flooded low-lying areas. The gloomy conditions persisted into Thursday, with morning clouds giving way to afternoon showers.

In fact, Wednesday's morning temperatures broke all-time records. For the first time since the beginning of weather records, Bengaluru recorded an October temperature of 32.8°C, significantly higher than the usual maximum of 28°C for the month. This 4°C increase surpasses the previous October high of 32.4°C, recorded on October 4, 2002. Meteorological data shows that Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport registered 32°C, HAL 32.2°C, and GKVK area 31.2°C on Wednesday. A similar high was noted on Tuesday, with a maximum temperature of 32°C.

Over the years, October temperatures have fluctuated in Bengaluru. In 2020, the maximum temperature reached 31.3°C, while 2019 saw a slightly lower 30.7°C. In 2018 and 2017, the temperature hovered around 31.3°C to 31.5°C. In 2016 and 2015, temperatures peaked at 32.0°C and 32.1°C, respectively. The previous highest October temperatures were in 2002 (32.4°C) and 2012 (32.3°C).

A man clicks a picture of the sunset on Wednesday in Bengaluru; (inset) Motorists make their way through heavy rain on Thursday

Rising mercury

Elsewhere in Karnataka, temperatures have risen sharply. Bagalkot recorded 36.2°C (6°C above normal), Kalaburagi 35.2°C (2.4°C above normal), Vijayapura 34.2°C (2.3°C above normal), Raichur 34.4°C (2.1°C above normal), and Mysuru 33°C (2.2°C above normal).

Despite increased rainfall this year, temperatures statewide have soared, often exceeding typical summer levels. Wednesday saw Bengaluru's maximum temperature at 32.8°C, normally seen in May or June. Meteorologists link this unusual heat to inconsistent rainfall. While the state saw 17% more rainfall this year, minimum mercury have also risen by 1.5°C.

Insights into current weather pattern

The current weather pattern shows light to moderate westerly to northwesterly winds over the state at lower tropospheric levels. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast rain until October 8, with cloudy skies and rain or thunderstorms expected, occasionally heavy. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 29°C and 20°C, respectively.

Rajvel Manickam, a scientist at IMD Bengaluru, stated that moderate rain is expected across many parts of Coastal Karnataka. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely in parts of North Interior Karnataka, while isolated heavy rainfall is predicted in districts like Ballari, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikballapur, Chitradurga, Davangere, Hassan, Mandya, Ramanagara, and Tumakuru. Moderate rain is also likely in many parts of South Interior Karnataka.

IN BRIEF

Cab driver found dead

In a tragic incident, 29-year-old cab driver Muzammil Sharif was found dead on Wednesday morning near the Bidadi police station limits. The body was discovered around 8:15 am by passersby, who immediately alerted the police. The authorities quickly contacted his family, who provided a formal statement. After completing preliminary investigations at the scene, Sharif's body was transferred to Rajarajeshwari Medical Hospital, for a post-mortem examination, which results are awaited.

According to police officials, no suicide note was found at the scene, leading them to register a case under Section 174(C) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) that deals with suspicious deaths. Police are investigating and exploring all angles, including the possibility of suicide or foul play. –BMB

MUDA case: Complaint on 'destruction of evidence'

A complaint was filed on Thursday against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the destruction of evidence pertaining to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land scam case.

SP Pradeep Kumar, one of the petitioners in the case, filed a complaint in this regard with the ED on Thursday. "CM Siddaramaiah is using his official position in tampering with records and destroying evidence himself as well as by using officials of MUDA," Kumar alleged. "The MUDA Commissioner is accused of suppression of evidence under Sections 201 and 204 of the IPC. Enquire into this aspect of whether the office of CM or the CM himself exerted pressure on the MUDA Commissioner and other authorities," Kumar urged. –IANS

Tree collapse halts traffic from BDA Junction to Kengeri

RAIN PAIN

A massive tree that fell on the road near the Alada Mara bus stop, near Jnana Bharathi limits, in the early hours of Thursday caused a slow movement of traffic in the area. Post the tree fall, authorities issued a traffic advisory, warning motorists about the slow movement of traffic from BDA Junction to Kengeri. Commuters were advised to use alternative roads. According to officials, the tree collapsed due to rainfall, resulting in the disruption.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Forest Department was immediately alerted, and traffic police were deployed to manage the situation. The traffic police took charge to remove the fallen tree from the path, and by evening, the road was fully cleared, police stated.

The officials have confirmed that no casualties were reported in the incident. Furthermore, no injuries or damage to vehicles occurred. –BMB

ORR service road caves in after heavy rain

A section of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) service road at Karthik Nagar caved in on Thursday morning, following heavy rainfall in the area. The traffic was swiftly diverted onto the main road to avoid any accidents. The incident caused immediate concerns for commuters, and the affected portion of the road commonly used by motorists sustained damage as the road collapsed.

The traffic police confirmed that the repair work was well underway, with efforts focused on filling the caved-in section and ensuring that the road is stabilised to prevent further damage. Officials have assured by later that day that repair and restoration will be completed swiftly to minimise any long-term disruptions.

Although the morning rainfall caused temporary inconvenience, the road is expected to be reopened soon, with measures in place to ensure it withstands future rains. Traffic police have requested motorists to follow the diversion routes for smoother traffic flow until the road is fully operational. –BMB

Scarecrow on guard: Call for culvert repairs

Residents of Bangalore City Municipal Corporation Layout are urging BBMP and BWSSB to address ongoing infrastructure issues, including pothole-ridden roads

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A scarecrow placed on broken culvert to warn motorists

Bangalore City Municipal Corporation Layout residents have been running from pillar to post for years, seeking solutions to infrastructure problems, but to no avail. They have repeatedly complained about pothole-filled roads and issues with the underground drainage (UGD) system, yet the authorities have taken no action. The most recent concern is the broken slabs on the culvert, posing a serious risk to unsuspecting motorists, particularly two-wheeler riders.

Frustrated by the apathy and negligence of the authorities, residents resorted to placing a scarecrow on the culvert to warn motorists. They expressed that their layout is the most overlooked in the city by both the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). The residents are urging BBMP officials to clear the accumulated silt from the culvert and replace the damaged slabs.

"The slab on the culvert broke 15 days ago. We have complained to the BBMP authorities to replace the broken slabs on the culvert. The authorities have assured us to fix it but they have done nothing all these days. We are facing a lot of problems due to the lack of basic amenities in the layout. We appeal to the authorities concerned to redress our grievances without any delay," said Dharmendra P, Secretary of Bangalore City Municipal Corporation Layout Residents' Association.

Expressing concern over the broken slabs on the culvert, Satya Narayan, a resident said the broken slabs on the culvert pose danger to the motorists. "The culvert is set to become a most dangerous spot. I do not know what prevented the authorities from fixing this problem. Are they waiting for some accident to take place at this spot? I urge the BBMP authorities to replace the broken slabs on the culvert," Satya Narayan said.

> **"The culvert is set to become most dangerous spot. Are authorities waiting for an accident to take place to fix this issue?**
> – Satya N, resident

A resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, mentioned that complaints were made to Yeshwanthpur MLA ST Somasekhar and the former corporator regarding the lack of basic amenities, but no action was taken. "It has become a habit for elected representatives to assure the residents. I believe that nothing will be done until the BBMP Council elections are announced," said the resident.

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Guruprasad said that a proposal has already been sent to higher authorities to remove the silt in the culvert and replace the broken slabs. "We will float a tender inviting bidders to take up the culvert work. This problem will be fixed as soon as the tender process is completed," the Assistant Executive Engineer said.

Nagara Metered Auto paves way for affordable rides in B'luru

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In a move to provide more affordable and transparent auto rides for Bengaluru's residents, the Karnataka Rajya Chalakara Parishath (Karnataka State Driver's Council) and Agnibhu Technologies launched the Nagara Metered Auto Service. Unlike other ride-hailing platforms, this service strictly adheres to metered fares, ensuring passengers pay only what is displayed on the meter, with no extra charges.

The service, which is currently available for booking through WhatsApp, a dedicated website (www.nagara.app) and the Nagara app on the Google Play Store, was first introduced as a beta version in June. The driver interface was initially tested, and full passenger services have been operational for the past three weeks. Already, more than 200 rides have been successfully completed, with expectations that the number will exceed 1,000 trips by next month. One of the key features of Nagara Metered Auto is its aim to bridge the gap between passengers and auto drivers, addressing the issue of overcharging which is common with some aggregator platforms. By offering rides exclusively based on metered fares, the service makes auto rides more affordable and accessible for the public. The initiative is also viewed as a relief for many commuters who often face fluctuating fares and peak pricing from other ride-hailing services.

Niranjanaradhya N, CEO of Nagara Meter Auto said "We are not aggregators, this is for the service of the community. Currently, we have over 15,000 registered auto drivers, with around 7,000 actively taking rides. Only drivers who have certified and functioning meters are allowed to register for the platform."

To make Nagara autos easily recognisable, a signboard is placed atop participating vehicles. This allows passengers to quickly identify which autos are part of the initiative, providing them with confidence that they will only be charged based on the meter.

The founders of the project drew inspiration from similar successful ventures in Pune and Mumbai, where a metered service saw a positive reception. "We wanted to start something similar in Bengaluru as many auto drivers here don't use meters and instead rely on app-based fares. But when we spoke to the drivers about providing services based on meter fares, they readily agreed," said Niranjanaradhya.

While the service has seen promising initial results, there is a need for greater public awareness. The team behind Nagara Metered Auto is planning to launch a social media campaign in the coming weeks to promote the service and reach a wider audience.

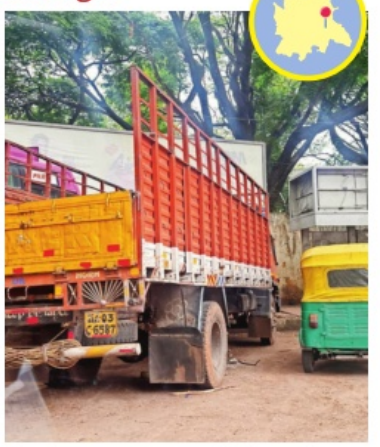
With this new initiative, Bengaluru's auto rides may become more consistent, reliable, and, most importantly, pocket-friendly for daily commuters.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Blocked footpath
Ramamurthy Nagar

The footpath opposite D'Mart in Ramamurthy Nagar is frequently blocked by shopkeepers and vendors, leaving no pedestrian walkway.

Parking chaos
RT Nagar



The bus stand near RT Nagar is often taken over by private buses and lorries, blocking public access. This issue becomes especially problematic during heavy rain.

Vehicles dumped
Koramangala

Scrap vehicles have been abandoned on 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, in front of the National Dairy Development Board.

Hotspots turn blind spots as all's well with B'luru air

In August, Jayanagar had average AQI of 60.5, while Central Silk Board recorded AQI of 112.5; experts call for hotspot action plan under NCAP

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The 11 air quality monitoring stations in Bengaluru boast of exemplary air quality index (AQI) month after month. The AQI values for August from Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMs) installed by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board show that air quality at most stations is either 'good' or 'satisfactory'.

While Jayanagar stations recorded an average AQI of 60.5 (satisfactory), the value was 56.5 at the Peenya Industrial area station. At NIMHANS, the average air quality index for the month was 39 (Good). The worst average AQI value (112.5) was from the Central Silk Board junction.

However, air quality experts say the city needs a hyper-local hotspot action plan under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) as the network of CAAQMS in the city is sparse.

Under NCAP, one of the performance evaluation matrixes for the release of funds includes source-wise cause analysis for air pollution. This includes hotspot identification within and outside urban local body's jurisdiction that is affecting air quality. It also considers the micro-level action plan prepared for each hotspot.

Sector-wise activities to be taken up under NCAP include the identification of traffic hotspots and planning of alternate routes/ bypass/ expressways to manage non-destined traffic in cities.

Peenya Industrail area had an AQI of 56.5, while NIMHANS recorded 39

> **High spatial density of lost-cost sensors to monitor air polluion is way forward. Hotspot for this city can require intelligent monitoring**
>
> –Dr Subramanain, CSTEP

The most common source of air pollution in Bengaluru is the transportation sector. Following it is the construction sector and waste burning. While CAAQMS cannot be installed across the city, low-cost indigenously created sensors can be used for mapping the city's hotspots and thus a micro-level action plan for these locations.

"High spatial density of lost-cost sensors to monitor air pollution is the way forward. Hotspots in a city like Bengaluru require intelligent monitoring. A combination of mobile monitoring platforms and high-density low-cost sensors would help in the identification of local hotspots. A high-density spatial network with air sensors can get indicative data on hotspots location and this data can be compared with reference quality data from high-grade instruments for identification of hotspots. A hyper-local action plan can be drawn based on locations," said Dr R Subramanian, Centre for Study of Science, Technology, & Policy (CSTEP).

Skywalk closed for maintenance

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The South Western Railway invested significantly in constructing the skywalk to benefit thousands of commuters travelling by train from nearby cities to work in and around Whitefield. After delays in the construction, the skywalk was finally opened to the public approximately 40 months ago.

The skywalk is back in the news as the South Western Railway has issued a public notice on October 1, 2024. The notice states that the skywalk connecting the Whitefield (Kadugodi) Metro Station and the BMTC Bus Stand to the Foot Over Bridge at Whitefield Railway Station will be temporarily closed for passenger use starting October 1, 2024, for 10 days. This closure is necessary to facilitate essential maintenance work, including painting, by the Railway authorities. "During this period, passengers are advised to plan alternative routes, as access to the skywalk will be restricted. Bengaluru division, South Western Railway regrets the inconvenience caused to passengers," the press release from the South Western Railway read.

Bangalore Mirror published on August 29, a story titled "Jumping jacks out of the box," detailing how commuters bypass the foot overbridge by jumping over the compound wall to reach the Whitefield railway or metro station on time. The article also included assurances from South Western Railway Public Relations Officer KN Pranesh regarding the resolution of the compound wall issue.

Skywalk connecting Whitefield Metro station to bus stand is closed for now

Meanwhile, railway activists and the public have expressed concern over the suspension of access to the skywalk for 10 days. They demanded the South Western Railway authorities speed up the maintenance works.

Abhishek, a railway activist, said that the closure of the foot-over bridge within a short span for essential maintenance means that the FOB was not constructed properly and SWR (Southern Western Railway) should take action against the contractor. "They should complete the work on priority and open for public use as early as possible," Abhishek said.

Munendra P of the Aam Aadmi Party in Kadugodi stated that the skywalk is a prime example of substandard workmanship. "The skywalk has been a great help for people. With the closure of the skywalk it will be tough for pregnant women for school children," said Munendra.

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

The art of plating

Remember the phrases "Don't judge a book by its cover" or "Appearances don't matter"? As philosophically enlightened as those words sound, sadly, reality does not abide by those rules. How something looks matters, and it is crucial as that is what makes the first impression.

Plating is half the reason food looks delicious and tastes amazing. You trick your brain into thinking the food is mouth-watering. It is why food feels tastier when it looks good. There is a reason why you enjoy eating food in a restaurant rather than packing it and eating at home. It is because you eat with your eyes. Anything you put on a plate can be made to look prettier. All you need is good food and these simple tips to get you started:

1. Pick a plate in a colour that showcases and contrasts with your food.
2. Pick the right size of plate or platter.
3. Plate food in the middle of the plate, leaving the edges clear.
4. Use rounded plates and platters to make food look more interesting.
5. Clean up splatters and smears after you plate.
6. Finish with a garnish.

–Femina

Our forests are burning, while funding is reducing

Over 1 million hectares of forest land in state engulfed in flames in past 4 years

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Over the last four years, over 11 lakh (1.1 million) hectares of forest land (more than five times the size of Bengaluru) was burnt in forest fire in Karnataka.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 3.7 lakh hectares of forest area was engulfed by 4,607 fire incidents. Last year (2022-23), nearly 3.8 lakh hectares were gutted in more than 5K fire incidents. In 2021-22, a little over 3.4 lakh hectares were burnt, followed by nearly 70,000 hectares in 2020-21.

This is while the Karnataka Forest Department spent Rs 6,723.59 lakh in various fire protection activities during the given four years.

Experts say the incinerated area is huge and can be brought down given the department follows certain measures.

"Preparedness, monitoring, and accountability by the department would play important roles in forest fire management. The most critical period in fire management is between February and April. Forest biomass starts to dry up in mid-February, and this would be an apt time to create fire lines. Apart from taking up all fire management activities such as fire line creation, the department should ensure an adequate number of fire watchers on the ground. While preventive measures are important, preparedness to fight fire incidents is the key," said DV Girish, a wildlife conservationist and forest fire expert.

Forest fire near ridge line area KK Dam in Bylur Range in BRT Reserve (File photo)

> **"Apart from fire management activities such as fire line creation, the dept should ensure an adequate number of fire watchers on ground**
> –DV Girish, wildlife conservationist

Budgetary allocation is an important aspect of efficient forest fire management. The department's data shows that while the total cost of fire protection in 2020-21 was Rs 2016.28 lakh, it was Rs 1777.12 lakh in 2023-24.

Experts say high weed density across Karnataka forests is also one reason for large fire incidents. According to an estimate by the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (KSRSAC) on the extent of the weed's invasion a year ago, while the majority of the forest landscape in the state had a 20% and 60% density of weeds, some pockets recorded a weed density of up to 80%.

Weeds like lantana and senna grow fast, reach heights, and have woody biomass, which makes the fires spread faster.

"Once these woody weeds catch fire, it spreads fast through cinders. Cinders from one tree jump to another, creating big fires, and engulfing large forest areas. Given the spread of these weeds, the department must act on a war footing. A majority of the forest landscape is covered in these exotic weeds, aggravating forest fire incidents. The department must focus on bringing in CSR funding and encouraging NGOs to free our forests," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board of Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

Only 300 trekkers per day

If you are planning to book an online trekking trail, then you have to rush as only 300 trekkers are to be allowed. Ensuring that ecotourism does not harm the environment, only 300 trekkers per day will be allowed on each trail, according to Forest, Biology, and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre. Speaking at the launch of the website https://aranyavihaara.karnataka.gov.in, which enables online ticket booking for trekking trails, the minister noted that on January 26 and 27 this year, around 5,000 to 6,000 people visited Kumaraparvatha in a single day, causing chaos. To prevent such issues, the number of trekkers allowed will now be limited.

The website allows users to book tickets for all trekking trails across the state. If tickets are not available for one trail on a particular day, trekkers can choose an alternative trail. Currently, booking is open for five trails: Kumaraparvatha from Subrahmanya, Beedahalli to Kumaraparvatha, Beedahalli-Kumaraparvatha-Subrahmanya, Chamarajanagar-Nagamale, and Talacauvery to Nishani Motte. By the end of the month, 40 trekking trails will be available on the website. Tickets for wildlife safaris and boat safaris will also be available for booking. A maximum of 10 tickets can be booked per phone number, with full refunds provided for cancellations made seven days in advance. For cancellations post that, a partial refund will be issued.

The website also provides images and brief descriptions of the various trekking trails in the state, offering information for trekkers and tourists. Khandre opined that trekking during monsoons is discouraged due to the risk of slipping, especially for inexperienced trekkers. Insects and wildlife are also affected during this season, hence trekking is restricted during the rains. "Some private tour companies have been bulk purchasing tickets, leaving none for genuine trekkers. To address this, tickets will now require uploading an ID card with a photo, such as a PAN card or driver's license," he said by adding that a guide will be assigned for every 10-20 trekkers, providing information on the flora, fauna, and history of the area, as well as safety precautions to follow during the trek.

In response to complaints that some staff in Chikkaballapur's Skandagiri trekking trail were involved in blocking online tickets with private tourism companies, an investigation has been ordered, and some staff members have been suspended. There have also been reports of fake tickets being used. To prevent this, a mobile squad similar to KSRTC will be set up, conducting surprise inspections of trekking trails. If fake tickets are found, action will be taken.

In the first phase, trekkers and vehicle drivers entering the forest will be asked to dispose of banned items in designated bins. In the second phase, inspections will be conducted, and those found with plastic bottles, carry bags, liquor bottles, cigarettes, or lighters will be fined.

What's your emergency?...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

professionalism. If any crank or blank calls are received, our team responds courteously. While blank calls have surged, we've observed a decline in crank calls compared to the beginning of the year."

She added that no calls are ignored or blocked, even if they come from frequent blank callers. "Every call is answered and handled, ensuring that no potential emergency is overlooked," she said.

The surge in blank calls not only affects response times for genuine emergencies but also burdens the system, requiring additional resources to verify and assess each silent call. The teams continue to monitor this trend, ensuring that no critical call is missed.

Unauthorised layouts crop up in city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1961, no such measures have been taken to stop unauthorised construction. The city administration has also been negligent in taking eviction actions.

Activists alleged that illegal distribution of land titles under Sections 9 and 11 'A' is occurring, with village panchayat officials issuing titles through e-Asthi software without proper land conversion orders or map approvals. "The e-Asthi system, designed in 2013 to control unauthorised settlements, is being misused. Officials are uploading land conversion orders and map approval documents for other settlements to distribute titles in unauthorised areas," said an activist.

There are allegations that officials are collaborating with real estate developers, uploading fake documents to issue land titles. The e-Asthi software, integrated with the Kaveri software, is not being properly used by sub-registrar officials, who are failing to verify documents during plot registrations. "Development officers and taluk panchayat officials are also creating and validating records for these settlements without proper approvals. During the construction of residential settlements, the total land area must be divided such that no more than 55% is used for plots, with 5% for commercial plots, 10% for parks, and 30% for road construction. However, unauthorised developers are not adhering to these regulations, reserving land for commercial and park areas and constructing roads that are only 15 to 20 feet wide. This could lead to these settlements becoming slums in the future," the activist added.

Records for properties are being distributed under Sections 9 and 11 '2' but are not being properly managed by village panchayats. The records issued through the e-asset software are often unavailable, the activist said.

A new e-asset system has been developed to address this issue. According to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), 172 unauthorised settlements have been identified, covering approximately 3,109.27 acres of land. More than 1,000 real estate developers have illegally built settlements on over 6,000 acres and sold plots. Unauthorised settlements are also emerging in areas under the Anekal, Hosakote, Nelamangala Planning Authority, and the Bangalore International Airport Planning Authority.

HEALTH TIP: Long periods of time between meals might slow down metabolism and make it more difficult to burn off the calories consumed

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Season's biggest trend: Deception

Fashion industry using greenwashing to answer sustainability questions?

The fashion industry faces huge sustainability challenges. But the bigger challenge is for consumers to work out who's genuine and who's not.

Fashion is about showing off your best self to the world.

While brands have long faced scrutiny over their production practices – the industry historically relied on exploitative labour, sweatshops, child labour and even slavery, disproportionately affecting women and people of colour – their commitment to sustainability has mostly existed behind a curtain.

Now this hidden side of the fashion industry is being revealed as the impacts of climate change transition from a future concern to a present reality.

Consumers are now more acutely aware of the fashion industry's environmental footprint and are seeking ways to reduce it.

Consequently, brands are capitalising on sustainability as a marketing tool, crafting compelling narratives that resonate emotionally to create strong bonds with consumers and imbue items with a sense of uniqueness and value.

However, this approach has given rise to greenwashing, where brands make misleading claims about their environmental efforts to appear eco-friendly without implementing substantial changes.

The rise of greenwashing in Australia led in 2022 to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) conducting an internet sweep of 247 businesses for potential greenwashing, identifying clothing and footwear as significant offenders. This report led to a senate inquiry into greenwashing, with a final report expected in November 2024. There are several factors that have contributed to the problem of greenwashing in the fashion industry.

Textile labelling

In Australia, there is no requirement to include fibre content in clothing and textile products, creating problems for sustainability and product stewardship.

Fibre content labelling is crucial for determining end-of-life strategies, as the type of fibre affects whether a fabric can be recycled or composted.

Blended fabrics pose a particular challenge, as a significant portion of clothing on the market are composed of mixed fibre blends, which often can only be mechanically shredded or sent to landfill.

This lack of mandatory fibre content labelling contradicts Australia's goal of a circular fashion industry by 2030, as it impedes recycling and end-of-life options.

Additionally, around 8,000 auxiliary chemicals are used in clothing and textiles, which brands are not required to disclose.

Some of these chemicals can have significant health effects, and recent reports indicate that clothing from ultra-fast fashion giants contains harmful chemicals far above legal limits.

Design

The current design approach in the fashion industry often prioritises immediate sales over the end-of-life considerations of products, leading to significant sustainability challenges.

Companies can make misleading environmental claims due to a lack of comprehensive material knowledge.

Consumers, who generally know even less about these materials, are unfairly burdened with making sustainable choices.

Addressing this issue requires robust oversight and regulatory frameworks that establish clear criteria for safe, durable, and sustainable textiles, ensuring that manufacturers and consumers are better informed and aligned towards genuine sustainability.

Materials

Material innovation is one way brands are attempting to drive sustainability.

While plastic and synthetic materials are often perceived as harmful, there is a push to replace them with "natural", "bio-based", or biodegradable alternatives. However, these materials can be misleading to consumers.

For instance, Piñatex® (pineapple leather) is made from pineapple plant waste but contains 28 percent PLA and PU (plastics).

This mixture of plant and synthetic materials limits its end-of-life options to landfill or incineration, misleading consumers into thinking they are purchasing a wholly natural or biodegradable product.

Similarly, mushroom leather (mycelium leather) is promoted as a sustainable alternative to animal leather due to its biodegradable nature and lower environmental impact. However, greenwashing can occur in various ways:

Stella McCartney: The Frayme Mylo Bag, made from mycelium and Lyocell, is produced in a limited run, suggesting exclusivity rather than a broad commitment to sustainability. Its high price further positions it as a luxury item rather than an accessible sustainable option.

Nat-2 and Zvnder: Their "vegan fungi sneaker" uses mushroom leather and eco-friendly materials but lacks detailed information on the environmental impact of the production process, potentially misleading consumers about its true sustainability.

Lululemon Athletica: Its mushroom leather yoga mats and duffle bags incorporate sustainable accents rather than entire products, which can be seen as token gestures. The emphasis on recycled materials needs scrutiny regarding their actual environmental benefits.

Mercedes Benz: Its concept car features upholstery made from cactus and mushroom leather and bamboo fibre carpets. However, the use of bamboo fibres, often processed into viscose with harmful chemicals, and the term "biobased polyurethane" require clarification on environmental impacts. The concept car may be more about marketing than a genuine shift in production practices.

The move towards natural materials is driven by the desire to use renewable resources rather than petroleum-derived plastics, which are non-renewable, persist in landfills for centuries, and contribute to microplastic pollution.

However, even natural fibre products can be guilty of greenwashing. These products may be marketed as compostable or biodegradable, but brands often do not disclose any chemicals or treatments used.

Only certified organic, untreated, and undyed garments should be home-composted, a criterion few garments meet. Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certified organic fabrics can no longer be classified as "organic" after they have been dyed with synthetic dyestuffs.

It's all about image

Selective transparency and tokenism are common in greenwashing.

Companies highlight sustainable materials without providing comprehensive lifecycle information, and incorporating small amounts of sustainable materials can attract eco-conscious consumers without significant business practice changes.

Luxury positioning of sustainable products can also indicate that these items are more about brand image than making sustainable options accessible to all.

There is too much onus on the consumer to do their own research about a potential product before making a purchase – but most consumers generally lack knowledge and understanding.

Even within the fashion industry, there is a lack of materials knowledge, with most brands reliant on suppliers to provide accurate and truthful information.

While the fashion industry is making some strides towards sustainability, greenwashing remains a significant concern.

This is where robust regulatory frameworks, specialist textiles knowledge, and transparent labelling could help, to ensure that brands and consumers can make genuinely sustainable choices.

(By Rebecca Van Amber and Saniyat Islam, RMIT University, 360info.org)

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I, SWETA SHARMA, W/o SHUBHRADEEP NARAIN R/o Flat No WE-1707, Purva Skywood Apartment Revenue Converted Layouts Kudlu Bengaluru -560068.I have changed my name to SWETA NARAIN vide affidavit dated: 01/10/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I Kemparaju Anjanappa S/O, Anjanappa K R/o N0-16/1,2nd Main,behind Hmt Gorund, Sharadamba Nagar,jalahalli,bengaluru-560013 have changed my name to Kemparaj Anjanappa.

I Drashti Chandrakant Shah R/0 D803, Vaswani Brentwood, Vibgyor high school road, Off Varthur main road, Thubarahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066 have changed my name to Drashti Shah.

I, Nitika V Torvi , W/o Sachin M Jadhav , R/o SF4 Chaitra shree Classic Apartment, 10th Cross, Ideal Home Colony, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bangalore-560098 I Have changed my name from Nitika Torvi to Nitika V Torvi vide affidavit number IN-KA207512327722337W dated 21.09.2024 for all the purpose

I, GEETA SETHI, residing at No. J 805, Sumadhura Eden Garden, Opp Shoba Avenue, Doddabanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560067, have changed my name to GEETA ARORA, vide affidavit dated 20/09/2024, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bengaluru.

I, Sadiya Neelufer Katid w/o Goffor Mahaboob Shanavaz R/o No.6730, Araleri road, Rajendra layout, Malur, Kolar 563130 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Sadiya Neelufer Affidavit Dt.03/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, SYED RIYAZ SYED AKBER S/o Syed Akbar R/at No.83/5, 1st Main, 15th Cross, Bapujinagar, Mysore Road Bengaluru- 560026 have changed my name to SYED RIYAZ vide affidavit dated: 30/9/2024 Before Notary Deepa. M Bangalore.

I, Aishwarya Raimuley W/o Vedant Jagdish Patil R/o CR enclave, 101, 2nd floor, Kodihalli main road, Bengaluru 560008 have changed my name to Aishwarya Vitthal Raimule Affidavit Dt.03/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Vinuta Naidu w/o Kishore Kumar R/o No.99, 2nd floor, 5th cross, Manjunatha layout, Kodichikkanahalli, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Naidu Vinutha Affidavit Dt.03/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, KYRUNNEESA (Old name) widow, No. 11, Kondasettihalli, near bus stop, Kolar dist – 563137 have changed my name to KHAIRUNNISA (New name) vide affidavit dated: 3/10/2024 Before Notary SRINIVASA D Bangalore

I, Khazi Akabar Badasha Mohammadsab S/O Mohammed Sab #3024 blr-32 have changed my name to Akbar Badsha M Khazi for all purposes.

I Rajeswari Srinivasa Dhondaley W/O, Srinivasa.m.d R/o N0-799,3rd Block,14th Main,50th Cross, Rajajinagar 3rd Block,bengaluru-560010 have changed my name to Rajeshwari Srinivasa Dhondaley.

I Nutan Laxman Acharya S/O, Damodar Brahmavar Acharya R/o No 1207, Shravanthi Palladium, 100 Ft Road Adarsh Layout, Lingadhiranahalli, Bengaluru - 560109 have changed my name to Nutan Laxman.

I Pulikkaparambil Vishal S/O, Pulikkaparambil Narayanan R/o 1f, Midtown, Sreerosh Apartments, Thallikavu, Kannur, Kerala - 670001 have changed my name to Pulikkaparambil Vishalakshan.

I, Syed Parejan R/o No-7 Nanjegowda Street Doddamaualli B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Syed Pyarejan.

MISSING

MISSING PERSON

Name: Renukamma
Age: 66 Height: 5.5
Colour: wheat complexion
Languages: kannada, Telugu
Location: Indiranagar , Bangalore 560038
Date: 30-09-2024 evening 6:15PM
Contact : 8050000530, 9381433450, 7702145127
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Grand Dasara festivities kicked off

The famous 10-day Dasara celebrations commenced in Mysuru city palace on Thursday amid religious and traditional fervour, with renowned writer and scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah inaugurating the festivities. Celebrated as 'Nada Habba' (state festival), the Dasara or 'Sharan Navaratri' festivities are expected to be a grand affair this year, depicting Karnataka's rich culture and traditions, coupled with reminiscences of royal pomp and glory.

Nagarajaiah inaugurated the festivities during the auspicious "Vrushchika Lagna" by showering flowers on the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru and its royals, amid chanting of hymns, on the premises of Chamundeshwari temple atop the Chamundi Hills here. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar were present. —PTI

Harsha murder: HC dismisses plea against transfer of case to NIA

The High Court has upheld the Central Government's decision to transfer the investigation of the alleged murder case of Harsha at Shivamogga to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The court dismissed a petition filed by Roshan A, one of the accused in the case, challenging the transfer of the investigation and the invocation of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UA(P)A).

The petitioner and other accused are facing charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and UA(P)A. The petitioner argued that the incident was a case of murder and that the stringent provisions of UA(P)A were invoked without valid reasons, targeting the minority community.

However, the NIA contended that the accused had hatched a conspiracy to kill the deceased, a cow protection activist and member of Bajrang Dal, with the intention of striking terror in a section of society.

The court rejected the petitioner's arguments, stating that if the petitioner or any other accused feels that members of the minority community are being targeted despite the absence of a scheduled offence, they can discredit the prosecution witnesses during cross-examination.

The court also dismissed the petitioner's contention that the registration of an FIR by the NIA was not permitted, clarifying that it was neither a new FIR nor a second FIR for the same incident.

Court says decision to determine offence that must be probed by NIA has to be viewed from Centre's point of view

The court emphasised that the decision to determine the existence of a scheduled offence requiring investigation by the NIA must be viewed from the perspective of the Central Government, not the accused. The court found no infirmity in the Central Government's order dated 21 March 2022, which was based on an examination of related documents.

The court also rejected the petitioner's argument that the prosecution under UA(P)A violates equality before the law, as similar murder cases were not handed over to the NIA. The court stated that without having details of other cases, the petitioner's contention cannot be appreciated, and the decision to invoke UA(P)A offences must be made based on the facts and circumstances of each case.

"Terrorism has no territorial bounds, though it has nothing to do with any particular religion, if terrorist activities are perpetrated by fanatics to achieve religious supremacy decrying the other religions and thereby pose a threat to integrity, unity and stability of the nation, people of such mind set have to blame themselves if they get into trouble," the court said. —BMB

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Extortion claim: FIR against HDK, former JD(S) MLC Ramesh Gowda

The Amruthahalli police have registered an FIR against Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel, HD Kumaraswamy, and former JD(S) MLC, HM Ramesh Gowda, in connection with an alleged extortion demand of 50 crore from a city-based realtor and JD(S) party member. The complainant, Vijay Tata, a resident of Dasarahalli, has accused the duo of threatening him with terrible consequences if he failed to pay the demanded sum.

According to the complaint, Tata (58), has been associated with the JD(S) party since 2018 and was actively involved in social media campaigns for the party's Mandya constituency during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Tata claims that he personally financed these campaigns, spending crores of rupees. He further alleged that he was appointed as the vice-president of the party's social media wing by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda at his Padmanabha Nagar residence, in the presence of Kumaraswamy.

On August 24, Ramesh Gowda allegedly visited Tata's residence and discussed the upcoming Channapatna by-election, during which JD(S) finalised giving the ticket to Kumaraswamy's son, Nikhil Kumaraswamy. Gowda, who is named as the prime accused (A1) in the FIR, allegedly urged Tata to participate in the election activities and called HD Kumaraswamy from his phone during the conversation.

Tata claims that Kumaraswamy, who is named as the second accused (A2) in the FIR, demanded 50 crore towards the election expenses for the Channapatna by-poll. When Tata expressed his inability to provide such a large sum, the Union Minister allegedly threatened him, warning that his real estate business would suffer, and his ability to live in Bengaluru would be jeopardised if he did not comply.

Further, Tata alleged that Gowda supported Kumaraswamy's demands and insisted that he arrange

After Rs 50 crore extortion charge, JD(S) dismisses allegations as baseless, says complainant is neither with the party nor its social media wing

50 crore. Additionally, Gowda reportedly demanded 5 crore for the construction of a temple and school, threatening consequences if Tata failed to meet this demand as well. The complainant also claimed that he received multiple WhatsApp messages from Ramesh Gowda on August 30, September 6, and September 11, reiterating the demands.

In light of these allegations, the police have registered a case under sections 308(2) (extortion) and 351(2) (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. The investigation is ongoing, and authorities are examining evidence, including the WhatsApp messages and phone call records provided by Vijay Tata.

Meanwhile, the JD(S) party has issued an official statement denying any association with Tata, clarifying that he is neither a party member nor affiliated with their social media wing. The party has distanced itself from the allegations, calling Tata's claims baseless. —BMB

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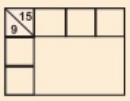
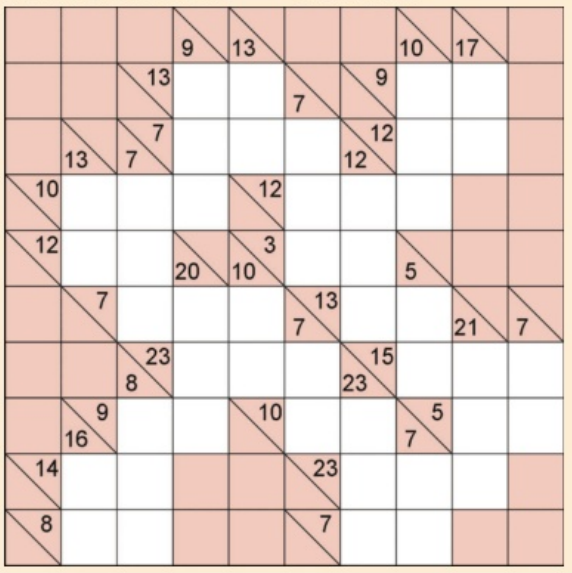
Kakuro

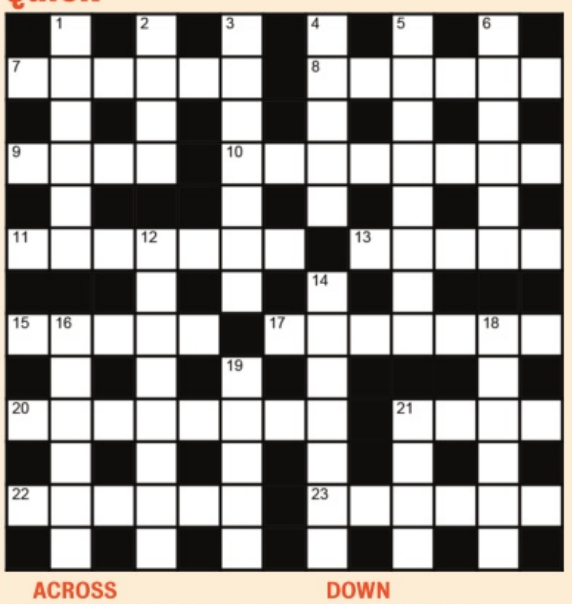
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Develop, come into being (6)
8 Eerie or unworldly, in a way? (6)
9 Without rain (4)
10 Gaining back (8)
11 Fashioning or shaping (7)
13 Stringed instrument (5)
15 Disagreement (5)
17 Canberra citizens? (7)
20 Strikes, has an impact (8)
21 Movement of the sea (4)
22 Land (6)
23 Prize (6)

DOWN

1 Carry too far (6)
2 Work laboriously (4)
3 Burning or inflamed (7)
4 Very severe (5)
5 Without caution (8)
6 Relating to the backbone (6)
12 Enigmatic aura (8)
14 Children's room (7)
16 Mammals related to monkeys (6)
18 Young eels (6)
19 Festival that marks the beginning of the Kannada new year (5)
21 Causes awe (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS T

XJIIJY NMYNM QN BDM XJFFMXBQJY JW SOMH-VZQXMN LXKVQOMZ ET LRM MQRDBMMY.

Linemaro

If nothing lasts forever, will you be my nothing?

Mindchow

Sometimes, the smallest things take up the most room in your heart

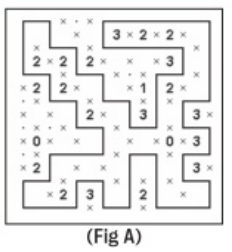
Joke of the day

I always try to go the extra mile at work. But my boss always finds me and brings me back

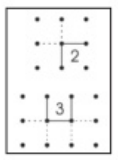
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

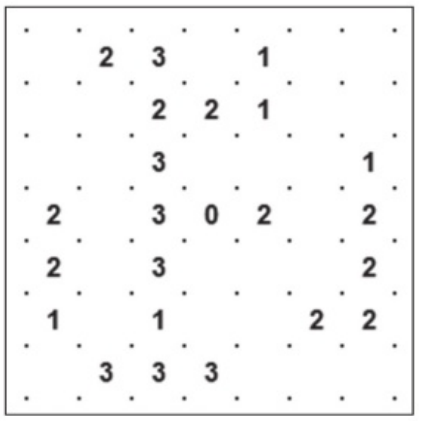


(Fig B) Not Allowed

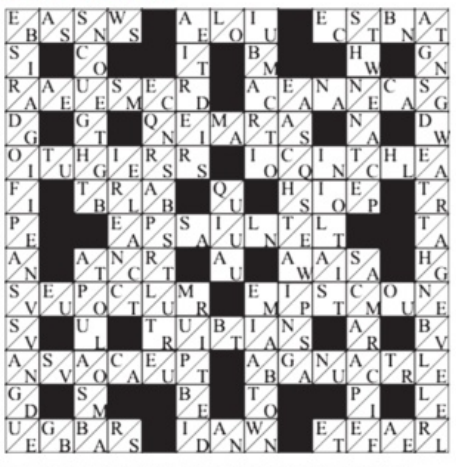
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				K
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Hards; 6 Ail I a; 7 N lock; 8 Us ere; 9 Daded

DOWN

1 Arcas; 2 Held a; 3 Laudo; 4 Siren; 5 K died

Mensapuzzle

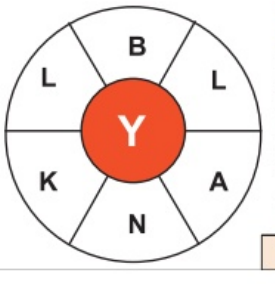
Below are three squeezer puzzles. Find the correct word to be placed in the middle of each to create two new words, one front-end and one back-end. Here's an example of how it works:
ever GREEN horn

press _ _ _ _ mate

page _ _ _ elope

blood _ _ _ _ _ _ lined

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9			6		2			8
		8	5		1	4		
5	2			1			8	6
1			4		6			2
7	6			3			5	4
		7	8		4	9		
2			1		9			7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 30
6 7 8 9

Medium = 4
3 5 7 9

Hard = 47
2 6 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

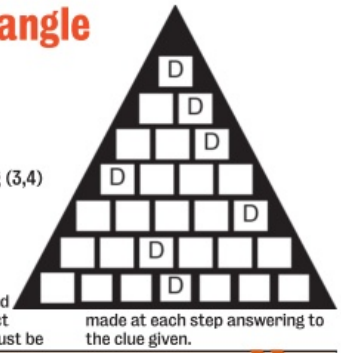
Differences: 1. Hand is not showing. 2. Necklace is different. 3. Picture of boat is reversed. 4. Back of chair is different. 5. Top of desk is not as wide. 6. Bottom of desk is different.

Riddler

I can help you have some fun, Sometimes I get stronger from the sun. If you never give me a break, You will find I may never again wake. I am optimistic on one side, I can be short, fat, tall, or wide. Rectangle, cylinder are just a couple of my shapes, And maybe I can even help you make some videotapes. Sometimes you have to wait long for me to get ready, Just hold on for a few hours and be steady. I can help you get around to the market or mall, and even help you make a call. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Off. on Duty
3 Head gesture
4 Completed
5 Possessed
6 Sponsors
7 Record in writing (3,4)



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

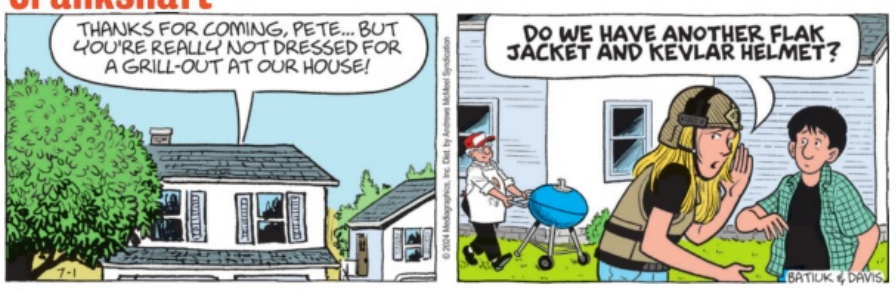
Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


THANKS FOR COMING, PETE... BUT YOU'RE REALLY NOT DRESSED FOR A GRILL-OUT AT OUR HOUSE!
DO WE HAVE ANOTHER FLAK JACKET AND KEVLAR HELMET?
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your moon becomes negative, so you may feel dull. It is advised to keep your mind cool; it's a golden rule for you to think twice before you act. You may travel to recover your money; otherwise, you may lose it. You are also advised to avoid going on an adventure tour. Students are advised to go for in-depth study to get success.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon; you may feel good, and domestic harmony may make you happy. You may meet some influential person who may help you get some benefits in the workplace. You may likely perform well in your job; you may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes in inherited property may likely settle down.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon; you may be healthy. You may be able to focus on your goals. Your performance may be very good at work, your boss may be happy with you, and you may get some important responsibilities at work. You may hear good news in any legal matter. You are likely to have control over your opponents and business rivals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be more intellectual, you may prefer gaining knowledge, and you may understand the value of intellectual assets. Controlling your short temper may help you to perform your task smoothly. There may be some chances for smooth earnings, which may give you comfort in the workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments in assets. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your moon becomes negative; you may feel negativity around you. You may find your responsibilities a burden and may be in a hurry to complete the task given to you. You may make silly mistakes, and your working efficiency may slow down, which may affect your day-to-day work. Your projects may be likely to be delayed; it may affect your running projects. You are advised to consult your elders before taking any important decisions.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon; you may hear good news from your sibling(s). You may spend your time with family and friends. With the help of creativity, you may plan to renovate your house or office. You may start new partnerships with the family member, which will be beneficial in the near future. Your subordinates at the office may help you in terms of the project.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
A positive moon may help you today; you may feel happy and have peace of mind. You may work efficiently in your professional life, and your subordinates may cooperate with you to take some important decisions in the business. You may plan to start some new venture with the help of your siblings and network, which may be beneficial in the growth of business. It is advised to take proper rest to maintain your enthusiasm.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, the moon will show mixed results. You will plan for higher studies to grow your career. Lovebirds may find themselves to be confused in terms of feelings. More expectations may affect your emotional attachment with the spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students are advised to focus themselves towards their goals.

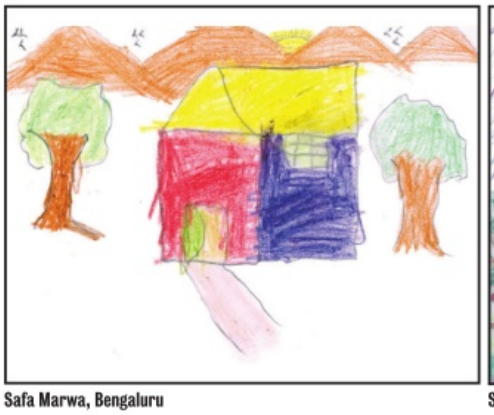
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your moon becomes negative; you may have detachment with your responsibilities. You may also spend more on purchasing worthless stuff, which may increase negativity in the house or office. You are advised to keep an eye on your opponents and rivals; otherwise, you may be a victim of a conspiracy. It is advised to read documents carefully before submitting your signature.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon; you may enjoy your family and professional life. You may become polite with the people around you, which may help in the smooth completion of your work. You may find some new sources of earnings, which may boost your savings. You may also plan to renovate your house or office.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may enjoy work; you may get rewards after your hard work. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking may make you tired. Due to a heavy workload, you may not be able to reach some family events. Chronic health issues related to your parents may be cured now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may be satisfied with your performance at work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit some religious places to maintain your inner peace. Your elders may likely show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

KIDZONE



Safa Marwa, Bengaluru

Shreyas S, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(5 * 3) - (24 / 8) + 5 - 12 -10 +6
15 - 3 + 5 - 12 - 10 + 6
12+5-12-10+6
17-12-10+6
5-10+6
-5+6
1

RIDDLER A battery.

BULL'S EYE
ably, alkyl, ally, BLANKLY, lanky, yank

FAST FIVE

S	H	A	R	D
A	A	L	I	I
C	L	O	N	K
R	E	U	S	E
A	D	D	E	D

STRIKE OUT

B	A	N	S		A	L	I		E	T	N	A	L	
I	O		I	M		H		N						
R	E	U	S	E	D		A	E	N	E	A	S		
D	G		N	E	A	R	S		N		W			
O	T	H	E	R	S		I	C	I	C	L	E		
F		T	R	A		O		H	O	E		R		
P		E	P	A	U	L	E	T		T				
A		A	C	T		A		W	A	S		H		
S	E	P	T	U	M		M	I	S	C	U	E		
A		L		R	U	B	I	N		R		B		
A	V	O	C	E	T		A	G	N	A	T	E		
G		M		E		O			P			L		
B	E	B	S		D	A	W		T	E	A	L		

QUICK

O	P		S		A		R		S					
E	V	O	L	V	E		C	R	E	E	P	Y		
G	R	O	U	N	D		R	E	W	A	R	D		
U		O		A		E		O		E				
I	M	P	I	N	G	E	S		W	A	V	E		
E		T		U		R				L				
C	L	A	S	H		A	U	S	S	I	E	S		
		Y			G		N		S					
F	O	R	M	I	N	G		C	E	L	L	O		
	D		I		E		L		A					
A	R	I	D		R	E	T	A	K	I	N	G		
E		O		U		C		I						
R	E	U	S	E	D		A	E	N	E	A	S		
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G		M		E		O			P			L		
A	V	O	C	E	T		A	G	N	A	T	E		
S		L		R	U	B	I	N		R		B		
S	E	P	T	U	M		M	I	S	C	U	E		
A		A	C	T		A		W	A	S		H		
P		E	P	A	U	L	E	T		T				
F		T	R	A		O		H	O	E		R		
O	T	H	E	R	S		I	C	I	C	L	E		
D	G		N	E	A	R	S		N		W			
R	E	U	S	E	D		A	E	N	E	A	S		
I	O		I	M		H		N						
G		M		E		O			P			L		
B	E	B	S		D	A	W		T	E	A	L		

QUOTE UNCODE
Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen.

MENSA PUZZLE
press ROOM mate page ANT elope blood STREAM lined

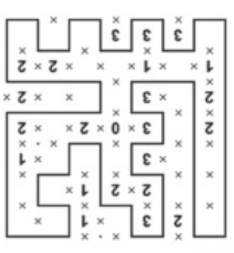
SUDOKU

8	9	6	3	7	5	2	4	1
2	4	5	1	6	9	8	3	7
3	1	7	8	2	4	9	6	5
7	6	9	2	3	8	1	5	4
1	8	3	4	5	6	7	9	2
5	2	4	9	1	7	3	8	6
6	7	8	5	9	1	4	2	3
9	3	1	6	4	2	5	7	8
4	5	2	7	8	3	6	1	9

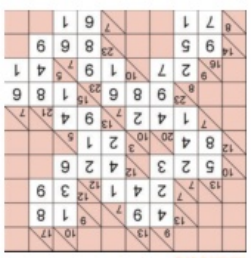
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, OD, Nod, Done, Owned, Endows, Set down.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 9 + 8 + 7 = 30
5 - 3 - 7 + 9 = 4
Medium
9 x 6 - 2 - 5 = 47
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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